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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Agricultural Conditions in Milavce, district
Domazlice: Formation of local kolkhoz/1953 Pro-
gram and Purchases/Equipment/Financial Regulation
and Benefits/Pressure Against Private Farmers.

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Location

2. "The village of Milavce is situated six km east of the town of Domazlice.

Formation of local kolkhoz

3. "The kolkhoz (JZD) in Milavce [49° 28' N.; 12° 58' E.] was established in September 1952. The district national committee had decided that no private farms should continue in the Domazlice district. So-called Agit-prop groups, composed of young Communist workers, were used to intimidate the farmers. Twenty-five farmers have joined the local kolkhoz. Two farmers were arrested; their land was nationalized and joined forcibly to the kolkhoz.
4. "The JZD of Milavce consists of 300 hectares: 50 ha of forest; 50 ha of meadows; 200 ha of fields and gardens.
5. "The farm buildings of the kolkhoz are in good condition. The kolkhoz management has made new stables out of an old barn. All the private mills, sawmills and quarries have been confiscated.
6. "The Milavce kolkhoz is a 'third-degree' kolkhoz. Most of the farm workers lack experience. No new agricultural methods -- certainly no new Soviet methods -- have been introduced.

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1953 Program for the Milavce Kolkhoz

7. "Sowing program:

50 ha potatoes
30 ha barley
49 ha rye
30 ha oats
30 ha wheat
3 ha poppies
3 ha turnips
3½ ha sugar beets
½ ha vegetables

8. "Livestock program:

120 cows
50 heifers
10 sows
40 pigs
1400 hens

9. "In state deliveries the Milavce kolkhoz has provided per year [year not specified]:

55,000 liters of milk
120 head of cattle
60 pigs

1953 Purchases

10. "In 1953 the Milavce kolkhoz bought:

- (a) 150,000 kg of artificial fertilizer, mostly 'calcium natrium', saltpeter and potassium.
- (b) 2400 kg of various oil extracts for the young cattle.
- (c) 100 kg of seed potatoes, under the so-called exchange system. The cooperative administration is changing 10,000 kg of seed potatoes for 12,000 kg of regular potatoes.

Machinery and Equipment

- 11. "All members of the kolkhoz have had to transfer their agricultural machinery and tools over to the kolkhoz against a certificate. They have received no compensation money.
- 12. "The kolkhoz does not have enough agricultural equipment. Much of the work that was done by machine before World War II is now done by hand.
- 13. "The nearest tractor station is at Domazlice. That station's equipment includes:
 - 15 tractors
 - 20 threshing machines
 - 7 cultivators
 - 15 sowing machines
 - 15 mowing machines

The Milavce kolkhoz has just borrowed machines for plowing. The rate is 40 kc per hour for the plowing of one hectare of land.

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Financial Regulations and Benefits

14. "Every member of the kolkhoz must work 180 working units. A working unit comprises the amount of work which should be accomplished during eight hours of working time. It is usually hard agricultural labor. For one working unit a worker receives 12 crowns in the new currency [issued since the currency reform of 30 May 1955]. Only half this amount is paid to him in cash as a regular monthly salary; the remainder is paid after the end of the fiscal year. If the kolkhoz finishes its fiscal year with a deficit, the members must make it up out of the second portion of the money due them.
15. "Agricultural workers have no holidays.
16. "Insurance and union fees are paid out of the second portion of a worker's salary, the portion due him at the end of the year.
17. "The state insurance company pays for the medical treatment of a kolkhoz worker. He himself must pay for the medicines. Most of the farmers and farm workers in Milavce appear in good health.
18. "The young people in Milavce are mostly employed in towns. Before the kolkhoz was established they were called in by the employment office and transferred to heavy industry.
19. "Since summer 1953 no young farmers have been allowed to leave their agricultural work to go into heavy industry or to transfer their residence to towns.
20. "Farmers over 65 years of age receive a pension of 120 Kc a month in the new currency.

Pressure Against Private Farmers

21. "Three private farmers remain in the village of Milavce. Their fields and property are still intact.
22. "Under present government policy, they have a difficult time; for example:
 - (a) A private farmer may buy as much artificial fertilizer as he wants, but he must pay 50% more for it than a kolkhoz member. And he simply cannot afford to do so. Therefore, no fertilizer.
 - (b) Private farmers have a 30% higher sowing program [not explained] and a 20% higher livestock program than kolkhoz members. They cannot afford to buy seeds from the cooperative administration.
 - (c) Private farmers must transfer to the cooperative administration 20% more deliveries than do kolkhoz members.
 - (d) Private farmers are forced to sell nearly all their production for very cheap prices. If they do not fulfill their state deliveries they suffer heavy fines. In September 1953 Vaclav Vebr was arrested and sentenced to one month in jail for not fulfilling his deliveries. The fine he received exceeded the value of his property. His farm was therefore confiscated and joined to the Milavce JZD. In May 1953 Jiri Sloup was sentenced to two years in jail for the same reason. He was released after the general amnesty, but when he returned home he was expelled from his native village.
 - (e) All private farmers must take out insurance with the national insurance company. This insurance covers against illness, injuries, fire and theft.
 - (f) Private farmers must help each other, loaning workers, machines and horses among themselves. The Communists have ordered that no members of a cooperative may help a private farmer. If a kolkhoz member does help a private farmer, he is liable to expulsion from the Communist Party and prosecution under the law.

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(g) Private farmers can officially hire no farm hands. Not even the members of a farmer's family can help him on his land. Children of private farmers are transferred elsewhere, to other villages as farm workers or to mines or heavy industry.

Local Attitudes

23. "The working morale in Milavce is low. The members of the kolkhoz have sabotaged the state deliveries and distributed substantial quantities of grain among themselves.
24. "In the event of war this village would fight against the Communists."

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